

Date: Fri, September 29, 2023 at 9:38 am  
Senders: Provost's Office and OVPR  
Subject: Anticipated Federal Shutdown and Research Activity



Provost's Office

## **Anticipated Federal Shutdown and Research Activity**

Dear Stony Brook Faculty,

As you are probably aware, we are anticipating a federal shutdown beginning October 1, 2023. Although considerable uncertainty remains over its length and the response of the different funding agencies, we can say with certainty that the University will do all it can to ensure that there is no interruption to the important research being conducted across our campuses. Towards that end, we would like to provide some guidance based on our current expectations:

1. We have been working with the Research Foundation (RF) to forecast our burn rate in a worst-case scenario, assuming that all agencies will immediately cease to process payments. Even in this worst-case scenario, we have sufficient cash reserves to continue to facilitate sponsored research expenditures at our current expenditure rate for more than two months. At that point, the RF could adopt emergency measures that would allow us to maintain our expenditures for an extended period of time. Given that such a prolonged shutdown is unlikely, our current guidance is that there is no need for PIs to take cost reduction measures at this time. We will continuously reevaluate our financial position and provide additional guidance as necessary.
2. Although we do not expect the shutdown to cause major disruptions to our existing research activity, it might nevertheless affect some of our PIs, especially if their research relies on federal facilities. In a small number of cases, you might be issued a stop work order by your funding agency. Please communicate with our sponsored awards team if you receive such an order.
3. Proposal review is not expected to take place, potentially leading to delays in the start dates of proposals awaiting review. It is also not expected that agencies will make new awards, including any incremental funding or no-cost extension requiring federal agency approval, for the duration of the shutdown.

4. While proposal submission portals are expected to remain active during a shutdown, it is likely that submissions will not be processed by the agencies until normal operations resume.
5. Unless you receive guidance from the agencies or the Office of Sponsored Programs, plan to submit your proposals by the current deadline. You should similarly continue to perform the scope of work on your approved awards, including all reporting submission requirements.

Please do not hesitate to [contact OVPR](#) if you have any questions or concerns, or if you encounter a situation resulting from the shutdown that prevents you from carrying out your research activities. We will reach out with additional information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Carl Lejuez  
Provost and Executive Vice President

Miguel Garcia-Diaz  
Interim Vice President for Research